

223526

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
AB-303 (SUB-NO. 26X)
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD. --
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT --
IN ASHLAND COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**CITY OF ASHLAND WISCONSIN
MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO
NEGOTIATE A NOTICE OF INTERIM TRAIL USE**

BACKGROUND

On a service date of June 3, 2004, the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) served notice that Wisconsin Central LTD (WCL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board a Notice of Exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and the Board's regulations at 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50. That Notice of Exemption is for WCL's abandonment of a .48 mile portion of its line of railroad between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland, Ashland County, WI. The line traverses through United States postal zip code 54806.

On June 8, 2004, the City of Ashland (ASH) signed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the segment of WCL railroad from milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles.

The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on July 1, 2004, allowing the ASH until December 30, 2004, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL.

In a joint petition filed on December 6, 2004, WCL and WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a

NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on December 17, 2004 allowing ASH until June 28, 2005, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

In a petition filed on June 16, 2005, WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on June 28, 2005 allowing ASH until December 25, 2005, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

In a petition filed on December 14, 2005, WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on December 20, 2005 allowing ASH until June 23, 2006, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

In a petition filed on May 24, 2006, WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on June 9, 2006 allowing ASH until December 20, 2006, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

In a petition filed on December 6, 2006, WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on December 15, 2006 allowing ASH until June 22, 2007, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

In a petition filed on May 24, 2007, WisDOT for ASH filed a request for an additional 180-day extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board issued a NITU under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29, which was served on June 15, 2007 allowing ASH until December 15, 2007, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL for the right-of-way between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's lakefront and traveling 2,552 feet to a point where it connects to a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company in Ashland.

On June 9, 2008, ASH filed a request for an additional extension of the negotiating period for the right-of-way. The Board granted a 90-day extension until September 10, 2008 by decision dated June 16, 2008.

Negotiations are currently continuing in good faith between ASH and WCL. The parties have secured a memorandum of understanding, and are drafting final sales documents. However, more time is needed to finalize negotiations. WCL is agreeable to an extension of time to continue negotiations under an NITU condition for the rail corridor between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles in the City of Ashland, in Ashland County.

MOTION

Therefore, ASH moves that the period prescribed to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement be extended for the rail corridor between milepost 435.35 on Ashland's Lake Superior lakefront, traveling southwest along the lakefront 2,552 feet to a point where it connects with a private spur that used to serve C. Reiss Coal Company, a total of approximately 0.48 miles in the City of Ashland, in Ashland County.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Chung, State Bar No. 1032802
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 115-B
P. O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910
(608) 266-8810
6/9/08

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have caused the foregoing Request for Extension of the negotiating period in regards to AB303 26X, by electronic mail or regular mail, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §1104.12, by electronic mail, this 4th day of September 2008, on all parties of record on the service list.

Kathleen Chung

Kathleen Chung, Attorney
State Bar no. 1032802
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Office of General Counsel